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Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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26 February 1981

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR, FBIS:

Forty years ago, the U.S. Government inaugurated a new service to monitor foreign public broadcasts. A few years later a similar group was established to exploit the foreign press. From the merger of these organizations evolved the present-day FBIS. Our constant goal throughout has been to provide our readers with rapid, accurate, and comprehensive reporting from the public media worldwide.

On behalf of all of us in FBIS I wish to express appreciation to our readers who have guided our efforts throughout the years.

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 FEBRUARY 1981

Reaction to Brezhnev Speech

According to AFP, President Anwar as-Sadat told AFP Chairman Henri Pieat that Egypt "welcomes with interest" any international meeting on the Middle East. Commenting on Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposal, in his speech to the opening session of the 26th CPSU Congress, for an international conference on the Middle East, As-Sadat said that although "last time the Soviets created all sorts of difficulties," this time he hoped they will "play fair." He warned, however, that if the Soviet Union supports its Palestinian and Syrian allies, the United States will "automatically push the Israelis," in which case Jordan will play an "opportunist role," leaving Egypt alone to defend the Arab cause. Cairo radio also reported As-Sadat's statements to AFP, noting that he expressed interest in any call for an international conference on the Middle East without prejudice to what was achieved at Camp David.

A Damascus radio commentary on Brezhnev's speech praised the Soviet Union for its defense of Arab rights but did not mention Brezhnev's call for an international conference on the Middle East. The unattributed commentary stressed the importance of Syria's attempt to "broaden the scope" of its cooperation with the Soviet Union on "all levels" and noted that Syrian-Soviet relations were "crowned" with the conclusion of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed last year.

An unattributed commentary by Tehran radio's English service noted that Brezhnev stated the Soviet Union's willingness to withdraw troops from Afghanistan with the agreement of the DRA Government, but it pointed out that the ruling party in Afghanistan will not make any decision "without Soviet permission." The commentary added that although the Soviet Union is "still hopeful" that Iran and Pakistan will recognize the Karmal government, Soviet policy on Afghanistan has "not changed considerably" despite the struggle of the Afghan people against the Soviet invasion. The radio said that while Brezhnev claimed to hold Islam in "high esteem," this contradicted his depiction of Afghan rebels as "reactionaries." The radio also criticized Brezhnev for failing to condemn Iraq's invasion of Iran and for adopting a "nonrevolutionary and neutral position" on the war. In a press conference reported by Tehran radio, Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti replied to a question on Brezhnev's speech by saying that Iran wants "friendly relations" with all its neighbors but that such relations should be based on "equality and mutual respect."

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

Amman television carried a detailed report of an alleged Syrian attempt to assassinate Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Accusing the current Syrian regime of previously assassinating opponents, including former Syrian Prime Minister Salah al-Bitar and Lebanese politician Kamal Junblatt, the report accused Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's brother Col Rif'at al-Asad, the commander of the defense squads, of issuing orders last December for the preparation of plans to assassinate Badran. Several groups of defense squad members entered Jordan to carry out reconnaisance work and make preparations, the report said, and in January 1981 a Syrian defense squads staff colonel joined them to finalize the details of the planned attack, which he was to lead. In Damascus, Rif'at al-Asad, whose son-in-law was closely involved in supervising the operation, ordered that the assassination be carried out following Badran's return from the Islamic summit in At-Ta'if. However, the Jordanian authorities "foiled the conspiracy," the report said, by arresting all those who were to implement the operation, including the Syrian staff colonel, on 31 January. The report, which detailed the place and method of the planned attack, did not say how the Jordanian authorities uncovered the plot before it took place.

Meanwhile, a Syrian "security source" cited by Damascus radio stated that "if necessary" Syria will publish and broadcast documents and recordings that expose the "criminal role" played by "agent figureheads" in the Jordanian Government, including Prime Minister Badran. The source accused the Jordanian intelligence services of carrying out assassinations in Syria. Those responsible for such crimes, the source added, must be punished.

Jordan

King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan received EC Council of Ministers President Christoph van der Klaauw, Amman television reported, adding that they discussed the Palestinian problem and the European role in finding a Middle East peace.

Egypt

One hundred Egyptians, including two former vice presidents and two former prime ministers, have stated that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has not brought prosperity, reduced military spending or strengthened Egypt's independence. In a statement issued on the first anniversary of the establishment of Israeli-Egyptian diplomatic relations, reported by Beirut radio, the 100 added that the treaty has isolated Egypt from the Arab and Islamic worlds and has not helped achieve a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Iran

Beheshti on Opposition--In an interview with Tehran radio, Ayatollah Bheshti said that all citizens are free to criticize government officials, providing they do not lie, insult, try to mislead others or create "certain climates." He explained that political groups and organizations can be divided into four categories: 1) Islamic societies, which are free to conduct their activities; 2) non-Islamic groups that do not work against Islam or the Islamic Republic, which are free to organize, publish newspapers and express their views as long as they do not act against Islam; 3) groups that oppose Islam and the Islamic Republic and plot against them but whose plots do not involve the use of arms--such groups are banned; 4) groups that resort to "armed plots" against the Islamic Republic--they are also banned.

Raja'i on Revolution Guards--According to Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i told members of the public relations section of the revolution guards corps that it is their duty to explain the corps' activities to the public because many people do not understand the revolution, which motivates the guards. He called on them to "enlighten the workers" about the activities of "counterrevolutionaries" and to "establish a bond" with schoolchildren.

Delay in Britons' Departure--AFP reported that the three British missionaries who were held for more than 6 months on spying charges and who were taken to Tehran airport on 25 February to leave for home were prevented from leaving Iran because of unspecified "passport problems."

Students Strike--The clandestine Radio Iran alleged that students in Tehran went on strike to support striking bus drivers, to oppose the "dictatorship of the shaykhs" and the education system and to demand the establishment of "freedom and national rule."

Gas Price Proposals--The Iranian delegation to the OPEC pricing committee meeting, Tehran radio's Arabic service reported, has submitted proposals for pricing exported natural gas on the basis of three principles: 1) indexing gas prices to oil prices; 2) taking into consideration the fact that gas is preferred to other petroleum products; 3) taking into consideration the large capital investments in projects necessary for gas export.

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PREPARATION OF GULF COUNCIL STATUTE CONTINUES

LD251725 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA)--The committee of experts entrusted with the task of laying down the basic statute of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council this evening concluded its meetings at the King Faysal conference hall in Riyadh. During its meetings, which lasted 2 days, the committee discussed the draft of the basic statute of the council and decided to hold another meeting of the committee on 4 March in Muscat to complete its discussion of the draft in preparation for its submission for the consideration of Arab Gulf foreign ministers council which will meet in the Sultanate of Oman on 8 March.

FATAH EXPECTING MAJOR ISRAELI OFFENSIVE

LD251539 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 23 Feb 81 pp 1, 17

[Sa'id al-Asmari report: "Abu Shakir to AR-RIYAD: 'We Have Begun Implementation of Fahd's Call for Jihad; the Resistance Has Prepared To Retaliate Against Any Adventure by Begin'"]

[Excerpts] Fatah representative in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom Rafiq Shakir an-Natshah has stated that the Palestinian resistance and its Lebanese nationalist allies have made the necessary preparations to ward off any new Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The resistance has information indicating that the enemy is preparing for a large-scale aggression in the coming weeks. He said that the Palestinian resistance has actually begun to implement His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's call for jihad.

In the course of his explanation of the resolutions adopted by Fatah and the Palestinian Central Council during their meetings which he attended, An-Natshah said that Zionist society is now experiencing a crisis which could prompt Menahem Begin to commit a military adventure through which he would resolve many problems, particularly problems connected with the elections.

In statements to AR-RIYAD, Abu Shakir said that the adopted resolutions aim at mobilizing all the Palestinian people's forces and the Lebanese people's forces under the command of their nationalist movement in order to foil any possible large-scale aggression just as they had aborted all previous attempts to strike at the forces of the Palestinian revolution and the nationalist movement in the south.

Abu Shakir added: "We have also adopted other resolutions regarding the convening of the Palestine National Council and the information, political and military plan for the resistance battalions during the coming phase, in implementation of the national council resolutions which were unanimously adopted by all the resistance battalions and which expressed the unity of stance and action within the framework of the PLO."

Regarding the situation of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon, An-Natshah said that the real cohesion between the Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples expressed by our fighters in the south through their confrontation of the Israeli occupation forces is the best proof that the two peoples are marching together toward the common national objective--the integrity of Lebanon, the consolidation of legitimacy in it, the liberation of Palestine and the return of the Palestinian people to their country. "We believe that our stay in Lebanon is temporary and we cannot accept that it is otherwise. We regard ourselves as guests of the Lebanese people. Sometimes we are the cause of many harassments brought about by our Israeli enemy's repeated aggressions. But the greater the aid and support given to our people and revolution, the nearer will draw the day for us to leave Lebanon for our homeland, Palestine.

"We salute the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Lebanese fighters who are fighting within our ranks and within whose ranks we are fighting against our common enemy. The day the Lebanese problem is solved will be a happy day for us and we will be glad if this day comes very soon so that the Lebanese people may enjoy stability."

Regarding the resolutions which were adopted in Mecca and the progress made in the implementation of these resolutions, the Fatah representative said: We do not think that any new resolutions were adopted at the Mecca conference but the special characteristic of the Mecca conference resolutions was that they were adopted unanimously by the Islamic states and were clear and specific.

Numerous resolutions related to the information, political and military fields have been adopted and I wish that one resolution will be implemented, namely, that the Muslim masses in the world be given the opportunity to organize themselves into armed battalions to implement the call for jihad. On our part, we began implementing His Highness Prince Fahd's call for jihad as soon as it was made. We have opened camps for the Muslim mujahidin in all parts of the world who wish to join. We have already received, trained and armed many of them. These have participated with us in the jihad. Some of them have been martyred and the others are waiting their time. If the Islamic world gives special importance to this point in order to expand this work, this conference will be highly credited in the annals of history for implementing the call for jihad.

ABU MAYZAR MEETS FRENCH, SOVIET AMBASSADORS

French Ambassador

JN251742 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, has received the French ambassador in Damascus.

Their discussion dealt with the results of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi and other Arab and international issues of common interest.

Relations between the PLO and France were also discussed.

Soviet Ambassador

JN251752 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA)--'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, met with the Soviet ambassador here today.

They discussed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's speech to the 26th CPSU Congress, the results of the recent Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi and issues of mutual interest on the Arab and international levels. The two sides also discussed relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER EXPECTS DELIVERY OF F-15'S

GF251858 Riyadh AR-RIYADH in Arabic 24 Feb 81 pp 1, 17

[By Hamad al-'Askar and Sulayman an-Nasir]

[Excerpt] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, has pointed out that the Zionist campaign in the United States against the kingdom will not affect the kingdom's armaments policy aimed at purchasing its arms needs from the country. His highness said: Conditions cannot be dictated to us regarding the presence or the stationing of the fighters. We have the right to dispose of and station our weapons as we want. In his statement to AR-RIYADH, the defense and aviation minister added: Supplying the kingdom with F-15 fighters is being carried out in accordance with certain conditions. The fighters will arrive in due time, God willing. All the kingdom's wants will be met, God willing.

Prince Sultan was answering a question from AR-RIYADH on the Zionist campaign in Washington that is trying to dictate certain conditions to the United States such as turning down the kingdom's request for fuel storage tanks, stopping the signing of new Sidewinder air-to-ground missile agreements, stationing the F-15 fighters due to be delivered to the kingdom far from the border with occupied Palestine and keeping the F-15 fighters under U.S. control after delivery.

WASHINGTON REACTION TO FAHD STATEMENTS CITED

LD251305 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Feb 81 p 1

[Fawzi al-Asmar report: "Washington Anxious and Concerned; Amir Fahd's Statements Cause Uproar in America; Bush and Haig To Visit Area Shortly"]

[Excerpt] Washington--President Ronald Reagan's senior aides yesterday were studying the significance and meanings of Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Amir Fahd's statements on several key issues, particularly the U.S. Government's attitude to the Middle East problem and to supplying Saudi Arabia with the required modern weapons and equipment.

A number of White House, Pentagon and State Department officials have reflected the atmosphere of anxiety and concern that prevailed yesterday. Meanwhile, some Senate members and senior Reagan aides have expressed the view that Amir Fahd has given the U.S. administration a last chance to reject Zionist pressures and move toward finding a just solution to the Middle East crisis as well as to facilitate supplying Saudi Arabia with the equipment required for the F-15 aircraft.

The statements caused uproar in the U.S. capital. Nevertheless, a White House spokesman told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that no statement will be issued on the subject before the statements are carefully studied. State Department circles have expressed their concern about the possibility of Saudi Arabia's turning to other sources of armament if it finds no response from the West. They said in this regard that Secretary of State Alexander Haig has frankly told Israel Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that the United States will continue to sell the necessary equipment and sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia. These circles expect President Reagan to say the same thing to the Israeli minister when he receives him in the White House today.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Reagan administration will shortly take an initiative to win Saudi Arabia's favor with regard either to arms or to a just peace in the Middle East. It has also learned that Vice President George Bush will shortly pay a visit to the area. He will be preceded by Haig, who will certainly visit Saudi Arabia as part of his tour.

UAE

PRESIDENT LUNCHES WITH ZIAUL HAQ IN PAKISTAN

For a Karachi radio report of President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayan's 24 February luncheon with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq in Lahore, see page F 2 of the 25 February South Asia DAILY REPORT.

YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH OPENS JUSTICE MINISTERS MEETING

JN231908 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpt] At 1000 this morning President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih opened the Arab justice ministers second conference, attended by the representatives of 21 Arab states including the PLO, the Arab League General Secretariat and the International Arab Organization for Social Defense.

Conference Resolutions

JN260723 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 8o

[Excerpts] The second Arab justice ministers conference ended in San'a' this evening and issued its resolutions and recommendations, thus ratifying the plan to unify Arab legislation on the basis of the Islamic Shari'a rules, after taking into consideration the conditions of Arab society in each country. The ministers also called on the Arab League General Secretariat to continue drafting a unified Arab civil law.

The conferees agreed to form a council of Arab justice ministers and to draw up the basic regulations of this council. They also requested the secretary general of the Arab organization for social defense to assume the post of council secretary general until the convocation of its first session.

Stemming from their feeling of responsibility, believing that justice is the basis for security and peace among peoples, realizing that the Palestinian Arab people who are facing a continued chain of aggressive Zionist policies which are aimed against the homeland, lives and belongings--thus violating the UN Charter, resolutions and the international declaration of human rights as well as the Geneva conventions--the second Arab justice ministers conference, which met in San'a' on 23-25 February, stresses the Palestinian Arab people's right, recognized by various international documents and norms, to their just and legitimate struggle under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to liberate their homeland, determine their fate and establish their independent state.

The Arab justice ministers condemn the Camp David accords and the capitulatory Egyptian-Israeli settlement treaty, which has relinquished the Palestinian people's rights. The Arab justice ministers stress that all these accords and treaty are illegitimate and void, for they simply ignore the basic principles of justice and contradict the UN Charter, as well as the Vienna agreement on pact. [as heard]

The Arab justice ministers greet all international official and public organizations and call on them to support the Palestinian people's just right to restore their legitimate and historical rights. The ministers condemn the Israeli enemy, which is still violating the Palestinian people's human rights both inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories and is also violating the Lebanese people's human rights. The ministers expect the international conscience to awaken, stop these violations and return the rights to their owners.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES FRG COOPERATION MINISTER

JN222039 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his office today Rainer Offergeld, FRG minister of economic cooperation, and his delegation currently visiting the YAR. The FRG minister conveyed to the brother president an oral message from FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The two sides discussed aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries, agricultural relations and means of developing them.

The meeting was attended by Fu'ad Muhammad, YAR minister of development and head of the central organ of planning, and the FRG ambassador in San'a'.

AS-SADAT WELCOMES BREZHNEV CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

NC251907 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] President as-Sadat stated today that Egypt shows every interest in any call for an international conference on the Middle East without prejudice to what has been achieved at Camp David. President as-Sadat was commenting on CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev's proposals regarding an international conference on the Middle East.

He added that Egypt hopes that the Soviet Union's intervention [tadakhkhul] this time would be impartial.

President as-Sadat made this statement when he received AFP chairman Henri Pieat who is currently on a visit to Cairo. The meeting was attended by MENA chairman Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawwad.

Citing as an example of Egypt's support for the idea of an international conference on the Middle East, President as-Sadat mentioned Romanian President Ceausescu's visit to Egypt in May 1977. The Soviet Union, however, created all kinds of problems at that time by pushing its Palestinian and Syrian allies to oppose the idea, the president said.

He added: If the Soviet Union continues to push the Palestinians and the Syrians, this will automatically lead the United States to support Israel. As for King Husayn, he will continue to be an opportunist and to side with the winner to reap maximum benefit. Egypt thus finds itself to be the only state defending the Arab causes, especially the Palestine cause.

Concluding, President as-Sadat said: I do not wish to find ourselves alone in an atmosphere of polarization that would be of no use to us in any way.

AFP Report

NC251650 Paris AFP in English 1646 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (AFP)--Egypt "welcomes with interest" any international meeting on the Middle East, President Anwar as-Sadat said today, although warning that Egypt was anxious to avoid being forced into a corner.

Commenting on a proposal on Monday by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, in a marathon speech to the 26th Communist Party Congress in Moscow, Mr as-Sadat said that Egypt had reacted favourably to a similar plan put forward in May 1977 by Romanian Leader Nicolae Ceausescu during a visit to Cairo.

Meeting AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE chairman and managing director Henri Pieat here, President as-Sadat warned that "last time the Soviets created all sorts of difficulties" but added that he hoped that this time Moscow would "play fair."

The president said that Moscow had "pushed its Palestinian and Syrian allies" to make trouble and warned that if this should happen again "the United States will automatically push the Israelis".

President as-Sadat charged that in this event King Husayn of Jordan would "play an opportunist role" leaving Egypt "alone to defend the Arab cause" which, he said, in the final analysis, meant "the main Arab cause, the Palestinian case".

'ALI COMMENTS ON UPCOMING HAIG, STERNER VISITS

NC251654 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will pay his first visit to Egypt under the new U.S. administration on 5 and 6 April.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, 'Ali said that Egypt has a completely open mind for anything related to the settlement of all aspects of the Palestinian problem and the fulfillment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He added: There is no doubt that Camp David is considered a suitable basis for the peace process in the Middle East, but any contribution to a solution to the present stalemate in the peace efforts and any contribution leading to the participation of the Palestinians and Jordan in the future stages, will be quite welcome by us.

On the talks to be held by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner in Cairo, 'Ali said that the talks will begin on Saturday and will focus on the formation of a multinational force to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

He added: The visit also reflects the U.S. resolve to play the role of full partner in the Middle East peace process and the eagerness of the new U.S. administration to implement all the provisions of the peace treaty as well as its commitment to the implementation of the provisions regarding security arrangements in Area C in Sinai and Area D in Israel. The visit and the talks also come on the heels of the contacts held recently by Egypt with certain states, especially the states recently visited by Dr Butrus Ghali, to examine their willingness to participate in the multinational force for supervision and inspection in Area C and D after the Israeli withdrawal to the international borders which existed between Egypt and Palestine in the days of the [British] mandate. Israel is scheduled to withdraw to these borders in April 1982. All this is in implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Referring to yesterday's visit to Cairo by Omani minister of state for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi, 'Ali said that the visit was within the framework of the strong fraternal relations between the two countries and Oman's support for the peace process. He added that views were exchanged during the visit on the situation in the Arab region, the Middle East, the Iraqi-Iranian war and its effects on the area and bilateral relations.

AL-AHRAM ON RATIFICATION OF NUCLEAR TREATY

LD251233 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Feb 81 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi: "Egypt's Nuclear Disarmament: How?"]

[Excerpts] A big question that was being asked in Egypt this week should be answered objectively, not simply in order to reply to the opposition in Egypt, but also because the question concerns a vital matter relating to national security.

The question, raised on the occasion of the People's Assembly's ratification of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, was: Who is behind depriving Egypt of the nuclear option and who is behind Egypt's nuclear disarmament at a time when Israel has become a nuclear state and Iraq and Libya are approaching this target? Who has asked Egypt to take this step? Is it the United States, or France, or Israel?

Is it required that Egypt should become a second-class or third-class state or that Egypt's role should shrink and suffer military paralysis? And finally, why was the treaty ratified at such stunning speed?

First we begin by replying to the claim that the treaty was ratified at stunning speed. The Cabinet approved the ratification of the treaty on 28 December 1980 after careful and thorough study. This was followed by discussion of the treaty by the National Democratic Party's [NDP] parliamentary body and its approval of it on 21 January. The whole matter was then referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee comprising the Defense and National Security Committees and the Foreign Relations Committee, which on 1 February recommended ratification of the treaty. This was followed by discussion of the treaty in the Arab Affairs and National Security Committees at the Consultative Council on 5 February, and on 7 February the Consultative Council, which includes highly qualified and well recognized patriotic elements, ratified the treaty.

Finally the People's Assembly ratified the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty on 16 February.

This is as far as the stages of ratifying the treaty are concerned. Let us now deal with the crux of the subject:

First, Egypt has long been aware of Israel's nuclear activity and of Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona, which it obtained from France. The 24-megawatt reactor has been operating at maximum power for the last 18 years. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hasan Kamal 'Ali did not conceal Egypt's concern in the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. He said that Israel does not allow anybody to visit the Dimona reactor--not even members of the Israeli Knesset. This is where the danger lies.

Second: Nevertheless, Egypt's ratification of the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty will prompt Israel to give greater consideration and thought to the question of nuclear armament. Several Arab countries long ago joined the treaty, including all the countries neighboring Israel.

What the opposition said about Libya not having joined the treaty is not true, because Libya signed the treaty on 18 July 1968 and ratified it on 26 May 1975.

The progress that both Libya and Iraq have achieved in the nuclear field and which the opposition is talking about would not have been possible--if there is really such progress--without joining the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty. Without doing so they would not have been about to obtain any technical aid in this field under international supervision. It is such Arab progress through the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty that indeed worries Israel.

Third: Egypt's joining the treaty and becoming open to nuclear technology on the largest scale will prompt Israel and others to think deeply of the futility of starting a nuclear race in the area. Also, Egypt's inclination toward the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes will strengthen "Egypt's nuclear option in the future" rather than deprive it of that option, as the opposition alleges. Expanding the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes would make Egypt a first-class state and not, as the opposition thinks, a second- or third-class state.

It is unreasonable that we should continue to talk about the Anshas nuclear reactor, which the Soviet Union gave to us and which has exhausted its purposes. This 2-megawatt reactor is the weakest in the world, because we have been refusing even the level of inspection applied in Israel.

Fourth: Egypt's persistence in its previous policy of ratifying the treaty only after Israel joined it would in fact have meant Egypt's giving Israel and others the right to "veto" or object to the growth and development of nuclear energy in Egypt.

Fifth: Egypt's step of ratifying the treaty came after it succeeded at the recent General Assembly meeting in persuading Israel to accept Egypt's decision to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. As Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan "Ali rightly said before the People's Assembly, "What prompted Israel to take this new step was its realization of the danger that will surround it and sourround the area if an arms race begins here." Of course, Israel takes into consideration the progress that Iraq and Libya have achieved in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, while both are parties to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

In fact we should not belittle the importance of this new step by Israel. The opposition and all those who write about the subject know well, by virtue of their position and following international developments, the great efforts that Egypt made in order to convince Israel to accept the Egyptian initiative of creating a zone free of nuclear arms in the Middle East, after it rejected the idea for many years. Egypt's policy in this regard is protective and aimed at preventing the appearance of nuclear arms in the area.

Sixth: The ratification of the treaty also stems from Egypt's basic need to develop its nuclear energy in order to provide electric power up to the end of this century. This is a responsibility that we must shoulder in order to provide for future generations. For this reason Egypt is seeking to obtain eight reactors and not just one in the coming 20 years. Such large-scale nuclear advance cannot be easily achieved in the present international circumstances without ratifying the treaty.

It is true that the United States has stipulated total international control on nuclear activity in Egypt in the event that it obtains American reactors, which is in accordance with the U.S. law on preventing nuclear proliferation. In addition, the United States wants to carry out inspection of our nuclear activity itself in place of the International Atomic Energy Agency, if the agency is unable to carry out its role. Which means that what the opposition is talking about--that inspection should apply to the reactors we obtain from the United States and not to other nuclear installations--is unacceptable to the United States and to the other exporting countries that have formed the so-called "London Club," and also to the importing countries that have joined the treaty and which number over 100 states.

What is important after that is that the opposition must admit that the Soviet Union has always refused to give nuclear arms to Egypt or give it Soviet nuclear guarantees in case Israel should use nuclear weapons in its clash with Egypt.

As for the talk about the equipment that Pakistan obtained, obviously this was obtained in devious ways which were eventually exposed. Switzerland, the only country that supplied Pakistan with such equipment, pledged to stop immediately.

Seventh: Egypt's membership of the treaty will not jeopardize its security but rather enable it, in the event of a military nuclear threat to any of the countries of the area, to choose between two options:

A. To withdraw from the treaty. This is something that Egypt decides and not the Security Council, as the opposition is trying to suggest. As for the question of notifying the council of withdrawal from the treaty, this is only in view of its responsibility for preserving world peace and security or in the hope that it might be able to rectify the condition or conditions leading to the state's withdrawal from the treaty.

B. To resort to the Security Council in accordance with its June 1968 resolution in order to give immediate aid if Egypt becomes the victim of an aggressive action or in a situation in which it is threatened by the use of nuclear arms.

Finally, Egypt, despite its "peace option," is most anxious to preserve the security and safety of its territories and peoples. For this reason the military budget has not been reduced, indeed, it is striving to provide all the funds that the military experts are demanding in order to develop weapons and utilize the latest technology. This is being done within resources that should also provide for the implementation of the ambitious development plan and facilitate removal of the bottlenecks in the national economy.

We never had any nuclear arms in Egypt, so that it cannot be said that there is someone who is trying to disarm Egypt. The possession by Israel or any other country in the area of a nuclear destructive power is not the end of everything. There are other destructive forces that cannot be monitored or measured by explosions. Egypt entered the October 1973 war knowing that Israel had the capability to manufacture an atomic bomb, if it was not actually in possession of it, but this did not weaken its resolve or the resolve of its men.

CHAIR OF ISLAMIC, ARAB PEOPLES' LEAGUE TO ROTATE

LD251137 Cairo AL-AHRAN in Arabic 20 Feb 81 p 6

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has issued instructions that chairmanship of the Islamic and Arab Peoples' League be held in rotation. The president also asked Dr Sayyid Nawfal, general secretary of the league's constituent assembly, to discuss the formation of an international federation for Muslim workers and a youth federation.

Dr Nawfal said that the chairmanship of the next session which begins in May will go to the Sudanese people's delegation, in view of the fact that the Sudanese people are co-founders with the Egyptian people in establishing the league; subsequent chairmanships will be in alphabetical order.

AL-AKHBAR WARNS OF SOVIET MOVES IN GULF REGION

LD251511 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Feb 81 p 6

[Editorial: "The Agent Moves Gain Against the Gulf States"]

[Text] The Soviet Union has called on its agents who call themselves the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to move swiftly against the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, now that these states have concluded a charter for cooperation against foreign intervention in the area, and to denounce the joint American-Omani military maneuvers in the Sultanate of Oman because the Soviets regard this as a consolidation of the American presence in the area at a time when these states are cooperating to prevent any Soviet presence there. It was agreed that the president of South Yemen would work toward this move. He started by proposing at the At-Ta'if Islamic conference that a summit conference of the states of the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa be convened to discuss ways and means to liquidate the foreign military presence in these areas.

It has been reported that the Soviets have observed that the president of South Yemen was lax in his work toward this move, but Hafiz al-Asad convinced the Soviets that he was implementing their plan meticulously and in a manner consistent with the international changes. The South Yemeni president therefore, embarked on a quick tour.

He visited Ethiopia, Libya, Algeria and Syria and held discussions with the heads of these states, which are members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front serving Soviet influence. A joint statement was issued on his talks with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. This statement, in fact, explains the reality of this move and the aims and objectives it involves.

Primarily, the statement emphasizes the need to bolster the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which comprises Libya, South Yemen, Syria, Algeria and the PLO, and to develop the relations between these states.

Second, the statement affirms that the Arab nation is now experiencing a difficult phase in its struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. By imperialism it means America, by Zionism it means Israel, and by reaction it means Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

It then denounces the military maneuvers which America plans to stage in the Sultanate of Oman toward the end of this month, regarding these manuevers as a serious threat to the independence and sovereignty of the Arab states.

That was the plan which the South Yemeni president proposed to his agent colleagues in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. He also must have discussed with them the method of action within the framework of this plan. He put everything he had before Hafiz al-Asad at the end of his visit. Al-Asad advised him to fly immediately to Moscow to present the whole matter to the Soviet leaders. He has perhaps already left Damascus for Moscow or will fly to Moscow today. He will return from Moscow with instructions on the method of action.

The South Yemeni president was chosen to carry out his move or to initiate the move against the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia because his country is located on the Arabian Peninsula, is adjacent to these states and has the biggest Soviet base in the area--a base equipped with Soviet material and manned by Soviet experts and mercenary officers and soldiers from Cuba and East Germany. For this reason, it would be easy for him to use any excuse to intervene and to use any Soviet-inspired justifications for such an intervention.

Once intervention starts, the door will be open to the rest of the agents, who are trying to give satisfaction to their Soviet masters. All this is obviously clear in the joint statement issued on the talks held between 'Ali Nasir and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which is an official document, and in the statements and clarifications made about 'Ali Nasir's tour and his discussions with the rest of the agents.

It is now up to the rulers of the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia to adopt a stand. The question that must be asked is: What stand will they adopt regarding this suspect move and its objective?

The signs are that the agents' move in the interest of the Soviet influence will take place soon that the Soviets want it to take place before it is too late and that South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir is trying to gain the confidence of his Soviet masters, since the Soviets have begun to be suspicious of him and to accuse him of siding with Saudi Arabia. The matter depends on his visit to Moscow. In any event the area will witness a Soviet action appropriate to the situation in the coming days. This is what the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia must be aware of and give full consideration to. They must be fully prepared, so that they are not taken by surprise by this suspect move.

MAGAZINE WELCOMES DEPARTURE OF ISRAELI ENVOY

LD241645 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 23 Feb 81 p 5

[Ibrahim 'Izzat article: "Goodbye Mr Eliyahu"]

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Eliyahu Ben-Elisar will leave us finally next March. He will resign from the di lomatic service in order to take part in the Israeli election as a candidate of the Likud Party.

Since we, as Egyptians, are good-natured people and return insult with kindness, we will say a thousand goodbyes to Mr Eliyahu. In fact his choice as the first Israeli ambassador to Egypt was quite unsuitable.

His appointment as ambassador in Cairo was a challenge by Menahem Begin to the Israeli Foreign Ministry and his Foreign Minister Dayan after Abba Eban--whom Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman nominated as first Israeli ambassador to Egypt--declined the post. It was probably intended that Eliyahu Ben-Elisar should be Menahem Begin's ears in Cairo.

In fact if the Israeli side's intention in choosing Ben-Elisar as ambassador was to cool relations, the choice was good. And if the intention was to harm relations, the choice was even better.

Eliayhu Ben-Elisar is leaving us to return home without leaving a single friend in Egypt. Even those who volunteered to befriend him were compelled to retreat. Ben-Elisar behaved with an arrogance unknown in the diplomatic corps and which Cairo has not known since the departure of British High Commissioner Sir Miles Lambson in the forties.

All Ben-Elisar's visit were visits of defiance. He would insist on paying a visit when he was known to be unwelcome. All his invitations were defiant invitations, and his participation in any diplomatic reception was a defiant participation.

When it was rumored that he was to resign his post in Cairo to enter the election battle in his country, diplomatic circles in Cairo felt relief. When this circle ascertained that the rumor was a fact, it felt even greater relief.

ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that, when Ben-Elisar expressed the desire to enter the election, he was placed at the bottom of the list of candidates, which makes his election as Knesset member in the next election almost impossible. When Ben-Elisar learned that he was placed at the bottom of the Likud list, he threatened not to resign and to remain as ambassador in Cairo. So he was put in a better position on the list, which means that he will enter the Knesset if the Likud obtains 30 percent of the vote.

As we say goodbye to Mr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar we would like to expect a better style from coming Israeli ambassador Mr Moshe Sasson. According to our information, he is a different personality from his predecessor. It is said that he is one of the few specialists in Arab affairs and Arab literature and has a perfect command of Arabic.

First and foremost, we hope that he has learned something from the lesson of the first Israeli ambassador in Cairo, capital of the Arab and Islamic world.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 258

JN251726 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)--Last night and today the valiant Iraqi forces killed 78 Iranians in the various operations sectors. Communique No 258 issued by the Armed Forces General Command tonight said that our units destroyed a large naval target, nine infantry positions, five vehicles, seven field guns, three rocket launchers and two excavators. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 258 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continue to maintain their control over the operations sectors, inflicting massive losses in lives and equipment on the ignorant racist Persian enemy. The following are the results of the activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy force tried to approach our positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. Our forces engaged it with all sorts of weapons and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 18 dead. They also destroyed one enemy infantry position in the same region.
B. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our forces opened fire with artillery and mortars, killing 17 and forcing the enemy to flee.
C. One of our combat patrols attacked an assembly of charlatan Khomeyni guards in the Sumar region, killing 10 before returning safely to base.
D. Four were killed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Our units engaged with various weapons a concentration of enemy troops and charlatan Khomeyni guards in the Mehran region and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behind 15 dead. Our forces also destroyed four vehicles, one carrying personnel; one field gun; and eight infantry positions in the same region.
F. Ten were killed and one vehicle, one field gun and one excavator were destroyed in the Dezful region.
G. Two were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
H. One field gun and two rocket launchers were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Our units engaged enemy positions in the Abadan region, killing two and destroying four field guns, one rocket launcher and one excavator.
J. Our forces attacked and destroyed a large enemy naval target in the Knowr-e Musa region north of the Arab Gulf today.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 78 dead, 9 infantry positions, 5 vehicles, 7 field guns of various calibers, 3 rocket launchers, 2 excavators and 1 large naval target.

II. Our losses: four martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1981

'DARING OPERATION' ON IRANIAN MOUNTAIN REPORTED

JN251740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)--Iraqi soldiers landed on Jabal-e Mishdakh [Kuh-e Moshtaq] by means of helicopters and destroyed an Iranian force. They then returned safely to base. The commander of the daring operation, which took place on 23 February, said that his group encircled the enemy force from three directions and annihilated it in a brief clash. In a statement to the INA team in the Shush region, he added that the Iraqi force dispersed the enemy reinforcements, which were carried by four helicopters, and managed to return safely to base except for four soldiers. He pointed out that the four soldiers, who stayed behind the enemy lines, managed to withdraw to their base after having broken through the enemy lines. They also managed to mislead the enemy helicopters.

AMMAN TV REPORTS DETAILS OF ATTEMPT AGAINST BADRAN

JN252002 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Unattributed report on "details" of Syrian attempt to assassinate Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran--read by announcer]

[Text] When the Arab people in Syria discovered the real identity of the factional sectarian regime dominating them and the false legitimacy it hides behind to exploit pan-Arab principles and slogans, when that regime, which is founded on domination by a faction of the 'Alawite sect, was confronted with overwhelming public opposition inside Syria, it resorted to suppression, repression and terror at home and abroad to survive. The regime liquidated everyone who raised his voice in opposition. It assassinated Salah al-Bitar in Paris. Before that, it has assassinated Kamal Junblatt, Salim al-Lawzi and many others in Lebanon and elsewhere. Inside Syria, the regime used the most hideous methods to liquidate its opponents through mass and individual killings, without discriminating between man and woman, young and old. The 'Alawite sect itself was not spared the regime's black hatred as it also liquidated 'Alawite leaders who disagreed with its views such as Maj Gen Muhammad 'Imran, who was assassinated in Lebanon.

Ladies and gentlemen: Today, we present to you and the whole Arab nation as well as all humanitarian and civilized circles, which stand for the freedom of the individual and defend his honor and right to live, the details of another plot hatched by the factional, sectarian Syrian regime. This time it was an attempt on the life of the Jordanian prime minister, Mudar Badran.

In the middle of December 1980, Col Rif'at al-Asad, the commander of the defense squads, issued his orders to the 'Alawite Maj Sulayman Jadid, security officer of the defense squads in Damascus, to draw up a plan to be implemented by elements of the defense squads to assassinate Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran. The investigation has established that the first reconnaisance operation began with the entry into Jordan of 'Alawite Lt Col Sulayman 'Isa, member of the defense squads, to mark the places frequented and routes followed by the prime minister.

On 23 December 1980 the first group taking part in the operation entered Jordan via the Ar-Ramtha border post to continue the reconnaisance on the movements of the prime minister and to study the situation prior to guaranteeing the necessary funds for the elements that would carry out the operation. The first group was composed of the following: Taj ad-Din 'Ali Muhammad, Syrian 'Alawite belonging to the security branch of the defense squads, and Taha Muhammad al-Haddar, a Syrian bedouin from Homs belonging to the security branch of the defense squads.

On 30 December 1980 a four-man group from the defense squads entered Jordan via the Syrian-Jordanian border post. It entered in two groups. The first consisted of Taja ad-Din Muhammad and Capt Ahmad Majid Abu Shalhah, an 'Alawite; and the second consisted of Taha Muhammad al-Haddar and two other defense squad elements. This group was entrusted with completing the reconnaisance work on the places frequented by the prime minister and with renting a house for the elements carrying out the operation.

On 6 January 1981 a third group of defense squad members entered the country via Ar-Ramtha. This group consisted of Taj ad-Din Muhammad, Taha Muhammad al-Haddar, Capt Ahmad Majid Abu Shalhah and 1st Lt Sa'd Sabah, an 'Alawite belonging to the security branch of the defense squads. The latter used a false identity card bearing the name Khalid Ahmad Hasan. The presence of this group in Jordan coincided with the presence of another two-man group from the defense squads consisting of Capt 'Isa Ibrahim Fayyad, an 'Alawite who carried a false identity card bearing the name 'Abd al-Munim Muhammad Fayyad; and Cpl Nazih Kasir Ballun, an 'Alawite who carried a false Syrian identity card bearing the name Nazih Tamir Baydun. This time Taha Muhammad al-Haddar brought in two Kalashnikov machine-guns and two magazines hidden in his car, which bore a Syrian license plate.

On 15 January Taha Muhammad al-Haddar and Taj ad-Din Muhammad rented a house in Suwaylih to be used in the operation. During this period the groups that entered the country would return to Damascus to discuss the results of initial reconnaisance work and the implementation plans with Maj Sulayman Jadid. Maj Mu'in Nasif, commander of the 40th brigade of the defense squads and son-in-law of Rif'at al Asad, also took part in supervising the implementation plans at the defense squads command headquarters. Maj Sulayman Jadid, security officer of the defense squads, kept Col Rif'at al-Asad continually informed of the progress of the operation.

On 21 January 1981 Staff Col 'Adnan Barakat of the defense squads entered Jordan via the ar-Ramtha border post. Colonel Barakat was chosen by Col Rif'at al-Asad to lead the operation and supervise its implementation. Colonel Barakat was accompanied by Taj ad-Din Muhammad, who contacted the elements in Jordan and reconnoitered the location of the prime minister's residence and the streets leading to it so as to become familiar with the area and surrounding the Prime Ministry. He did this on foot and for 2 consecutive days to determine the time that Prime Minister Badran leaves the Prime Ministry. He then went back to Damascus to discuss the final details of the plan of execution in light of the intensive reconnaissance made by Staff Col 'Adnan Barakat during that period.

After discussing the details and defining the requirements, Col Rif'at al-Asad issued his final orders to carry out the operation following the return of Prime Minister Mudar Badran from the Islamic Conference summit in At-Ta'if. It was finally agreed that the place of execution would be at the traffic lights at the intersection of the road that leads to the Prime Ministry and that which leads to the Holiday Inn when coming from the third circle. As for the time of the execution of the plan, it was agreed that it would be when Prime Minister Mudar left the Prime Ministry at the end of his regular office hours. It was also agreed that the execution of the plan would begin with an attack by two defense squads elements on the motorcade of the prime minister at the agreed intersection with machineguns and hand grenades beginning with an attack on the security cars escorting the prime minister to paralyze and confuse their occupants. Then the attackers would attack the prime minister's car with machineguns and hand grenades. According to the agreed plan, Sgt 'Isa Ibrahim Fayyad and Cpl Akram 'Ali Bishani, both from the defense squads which carried out the massacre of the Tudmur prison in June 1980, would carry out the attack, while supervision of the operation would be carried out by the leader of the operation staff Col 'Adnan Kamil Barakat. All these are members of the defense squads and from the 'Alawite community.

On 31 January 1980 Staff Col 'Adnan Barakat entered Jordan for the second time with a forged identy card bearing the name of Khalid Mahmud Bazzazah, to carry out the operation. He was arrested at the Ar-Ramtha border post. Driver George 'Abdu Bitar was also arrested at Ar-Ramtha border post on the same day and the car he was driving, which was to be used in the operation, was confiscated. The car is a Mercedes 280, with Saudi licence plate No 3911. Four bombs to be used in carrying out the operation were uncovered in a secret hiding place in the car. Two other elements who were to participate in the operation were also arrested on the same day. They are Sgt 'Isa Ibrahim Fayyad and Cpl Akram Bishani, alias Taha al-Haddar. They were arrested in the house which had been rented in Suwaylih for the purposes of the operation.

Thus, the Jordanian authorities have foiled the conspiracy which was planned by the command of the defense squads, which is entrusted with the protection of the existing regime in Syria. All those who were to carry out the operation have been arrested and all the weapons and equipment for carrying out the crime were confiscated.

VISITING ROMANIAN MINISTER MEETS OFFICIALS

Transport, Trade Minister

JN251345 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] The Jordanian side led by Eng 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transport and acting minister of industry and trade, and the Romanian side led by Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international cooperation, held a meeting this morning at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. They reviewed economic and trade relations between the two friendly countries on the basis of the agreements and protocols signed between them. They also discussed the projects which are being implemented by Romanian specialists in Jordan. The two sides discussed at length the stages of the projects which have been implemented in Jordan and those which have not yet been implemented, particularly those related to the petroleum refinery and high-voltage projects.

The Romanian and Jordanian sides signed an agreement to supply Romania with 550,000 tons of Jordanian phosphate this year. They also reviewed trade between the two countries, means to consolidate it and the possibility of increasing and diversifying Jordanian exports to Romania, in order to reach an even-handed trade balance between them. They also discussed the establishment of a Jordanian trade center in Bucharest.

Concerning cultural cooperation, the Jordanian and the Romanian sides explained the necessity for signing the cultural minutes which were previously prepared on the possibility of accepting more Jordanian students at Romanian universities and institutes and of insuring grants for them in coordination with the Ministry of Education. The Jordanian side briefed the Romanian side on the projects which Jordan intends to implement in the future. The Romanian side expressed its interest in participating in them.

Prime Minister

JN251528 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 25 Feb (PETRA)--Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office today Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation. 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs and transport minister, attended the meeting.

The two sides reviewed the general situation in the region and discussed the existing bilateral relations. They also discussed the various fields of existing bilateral cooperation and evaluated the accomplishments achieved in this regard. Moreover, they studied ways of bolstering economic cooperation and expanding trade. The visiting Romanian minister renewed the Romanian prime minister's invitation of Prime Minister Badran to visit Romania.

King Husayn

JN252010 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court this evening Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international cooperation. Burtica conveyed to his majesty the king a message from His Excellency Nicolae Ceausescu. The message deals with Jordanian-Romanian relations and means of bolstering joint cooperation in various spheres in the mutual interest of the two friendly peoples.

The two sides discussed current issues as well as the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Romania and the Arab world. The meeting was attended by the Royal Court Minister 'Amir Khammash and 'Ali Suhaymat, minister of transport and minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs.

VAN DER KLAAUW MEETS ROYALTY, FOREIGN MINISTER

King, Crown Prince Receptions

JN251835 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court this evening Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers. His majesty the king outlined the historical background of the Palestinian cause and the fundamental principles for attaining a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, namely ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, restoring Arab Jerusalem to Arab soveriegnty and securing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights including their right to self-determination in their homeland and the participation of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, in any efforts to bring about a just peace in the region.

His Majesty also underlined the importance of the relations between the Arab world and the European Community undertaking a positive and constructive role in establishing a just peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Minister of the Royal Court 'Amir Khammash and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

Crown Prince Hasan also received Dr van der Klaauw this evening. Crown Prince Hasan outlined the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli authorities' arbitrary measures against the Arab citizens. His Highness Prince Hasan said that these measures seek to force the Arab citizens into leaving their land and to change the Arab cultural characteristics of the occupied lands. Crown Prince Hasan also discussed the Israeli authorities' settlement policy, which hinders the establishment of peace in the region. The two sides also discussed the European Community's contribution to the efforts toward attaining a just peace in the region.

Foreign Minister Meeting

JN261040 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 26 Feb (PETRA)--A meeting was held yesterday at the Foreign Ministry between Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and president of the EC Council of Ministers. The members of van der Klaauw's delegation and several top Foreign Ministry officials participated in the meeting.

European visions of the principles on which a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved in the Middle East region were reviewed. Also reviewed were procedural and practical aspects pertaining to the possibility of reaching a solution that is acceptable to all parties. The Netherlands minister and his delegation listened to Jordan's viewpoints on the European peace vision.

At the end of his tour, the Netherlands minister will submit a report to the EC Council of Ministers which will include the viewpoints of the parties concerned on such a vision.

BUTRUS EXPLAINS STANCE ON BORDER STRIP, MILITIAS

NC251542 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made a statement following today's Cabinet session. The prime minister said that at this session Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus explained the stance which Lebanon has taken since 1978 toward the militias stationed in the border strip. The foreign minister also explained the relevant aide memoire sent to the United Nations and the stances which were based on this aide memoire in all the subsequent phases. The Cabinet took notice of these clarifications and of the consistent Lebanese position.

Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar al-Misayki has released official information in this respect which states that the Cabinet has taken notice of the legal status of Sa'd Haddad vis-a-vis the United Nations and vis-a-vis the Lebanese authorities. The Cabinet also took cognizance of the explanatory memorandum on the situation in southern Lebanon, and particularly on the situation which has been prevailing in the UNIFIL operations area since the UNIFIL assumed its task in this area under UN Security Council Resolution No 425.

This memorandum includes a statement made by General Siilasvuo and dated 24 June 1978. General Siilasvuo made the said statement upon leaving a working meeting held at the Republican Palace. The statement contains the following [declaration]: The Lebanese Government has confirmed its stance that the UNIFIL should be in a position to help the government to recover its control of southern Lebanon--one of the UNIFIL's major tasks under Security Council Resolution No 425. Therefore, it is imperative for the UNIFIL to be stationed [in southern Lebanon] and to control the area of its operations extending to the international border. From this perspective, I want to explain that the UNIFIL has not yet fulfilled this objective. However, the UNIFIL will continue to exert its efforts to attain it.

On 15 June 1978, the then prime minister stated that the government's decision is clear and frank. He added that orders had been issued by the army command to the military units stationed in the border area, instructing these units to remain in their barracks and to refrain from performing any security tasks in the area as soon as the UNIFIL entered it. Consequently, it becomes the UNIFIL's responsibility to maintain security in the whole area, up to the internationally-recognized southern border, without any position being excepted.

This has been and still is our government's stance. Any action conflicting with this stance is considered a disobedience to the state, and it is imperative to confront such an action on this basis. Meanwhile, the UN secretary general was corresponding with the Israeli Government and asking it to evacuate southern Lebanon and hand this territory over to the UNIFIL. The secretary general was also complaining that Israel was not meeting this request.

The memorandum says that Sa'd Haddad was not empowered to represent the Lebanese Army, to negotiate with the UNIFIL or to take over any area on Lebanon's behalf. Major Haddad was asked to order his troops to stay in their barracks and to refrain from discharging any security tasks as soon as the UNIFIL arrived in the area to enable the military authorities to determine Major Haddad's military status later. The memorandum adds that since June 1978, Lebanon has been asking the United Nations to implement in the south Security Council Resolutions Nos 425 and 426 and subsequent resolutions. Lebanon has also been declaring that the UNIFIL has not recovered all the area occupied by Israel to the international border and, consequently, the UNIFIL has not handed this area over to the Lebanese Government, with the latter demanding that this area be returned to it so that the Lebanese Government could exercise its sovereignty over this area.

In conclusion the memorandum mentions that the decisive factor which settles conclusively all argument about this subject is the fact that Sa'd Haddad had been dismissed from the Lebanese army by Decree No 1,943, dated 19 April 1979, after the national defense minister had permitted proceedings to be taken against Sa'd Haddad on 21 October 1978.

Furthermore, and on 26 June 1979, the office of the president of the republic issued an official statement following the dismissal of Sa'd Haddad. The official statement included the following: The Lebanese authority strongly condemns the stance of Sa'd Haddad. Meanwhile, this authority affirms that it pays no heed to the statements which were attributed to Sa'd Haddad after the army had ousted him by referring him to the military judiciary, and because Haddad's attitude is illegitimate and constitutes an attempt to partition the homeland. Here ends the relevant official information.

HADDAD GIVES ULTIMATUM ON ARMY SALARY FREEZE

NC261056 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 81

[26 February statement by Free Lebanon commander Maj Sa'd Haddad--read by announcer]

[Excerpt] I remind everyone that Maj Sa'd Haddad no longer represents himself alone but, due to his patriotic stand and status, he represents 95 percent of the Christians in Lebanon, including those affiliated with political parties, no less than 80 percent of the Lebanese Shi'ite sect, and well over 50 percent of the Lebanese Druze.

Anyone who should utter a word against Major Haddad, would insult this large number of the Lebanese people. The support given by this large proportion of the noble Lebanese people to Major Haddad, emanates from its faith in the soundness of his patriotic course, which will eventually lead to freeing Lebanon from the claws of its occupiers. In addition, a great number of military personnel has joined the Free Lebanon army.

On this occasion, and given the fact that the government does not comprehend its responsibility or the consequences of its statements, we again make demands on the army command, the governor of southern Lebanon and the prime minister to release the frozen salaries of army personnel of southern Lebanon, totalling approximately 20 million Lebanese pounds within a period not exceeding 48 hours beginning this morning. We hope this demand will be met so that we will not be forced to take revenge, a matter that would bring about numerous disasters far outweighing the frozen salaries. He who is forewarned is forearmed.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE ISSUES FINAL STATEMENT

JN260820 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference ended its first session for 1981 this evening. The session began on 22 February, the anniversary of the first Arab unity in contemporary history between Egypt and Syria, in faithfulness to the memory of this unity and in the belief that struggle for pan-Arab unity is a firm principle of Arab struggle.

On this occasion the Permanent Secretariat stressed the importance of the merger between Syria and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. From Arab Damascus the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference hailed the Arab people in Egypt and expressed its confidence that the great Egyptian people would soon overthrow As-Sadat's regime of agentry and restore Egypt to its natural place at the head of the pan-Arab struggle.

The final statement said that the Permanent Secretariat reviewed the political situation in the region, drawing attention to the escalation of the imperialist onslaught which coincided with Reagan's assumption of power. It confidently asserted that the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary machinations would fail and denounced the desperate attempts being made to improve the image of As-Sadat's agent regime, the Camp David plot, the intensification of the U.S. imperialist military presence in the region, and the escalating Zionist aggression against Lebanon.

The statement said that the conference Permanent Secretariat condemns the saboteur role of the ruling regime in Iraq in seeking to divide the unity of the Arab liberation movement. The Secretariat condemned anew the war which this regime is waging against the Iranian people and revolution.

The final statement hailed the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and called for developing this front to the level of the current stage's requisites. It also hailed the steadfastness of Syria, the forward bastion in confronting hostile forces, and the Palestinian people and their brave struggle. The Permanent Secretariat also conveyed its greetings to the struggle of the Arab people in Egypt against the Qabus regime [as heard].

The Permanent Secretariat adopted several decisions and recommendations, particularly on the sending of a cable of greetings and support for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people and a similar cable to the leaders of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, as well as a cable to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. It decided to form a new committee to prepare for the panel on basic liberties in the Arab homeland.

It was decided to hold the second meeting in Beirut on 15 May.

At the conclusion of its first session, the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference hailed the struggle of all the Egyptian people's groups and factions. It praised all stands that oppose the Camp David accords, the Washington agreement, the attempts to normalize relations with the Zionist enemy, and the agent regime's granting of military facilities and bases to U.S. imperialism.

The Permanent Secretariat affirmed its trust and that of the Arab nation in the great people of the land of the Kinana [ancient Arab tribe that migrated to Egypt], adding that the struggle of all the organized political forces in Egypt exposes the regime and ra lies the ranks of the masses to save Egypt and establish a nationalist and democratic regime that enjoys the appreciation of the Arab liberation movement and that of all democratic forces in the world which love peace and socialism.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference announced that it will do its utmost during the current year, which is an Arab and world year for solidarity with the Arab people, to intensify the pan-Arab struggle against world imperialism, the imperialist base of Israeli and Arab reaction, particularly As-Sadat's agent regime, by offering all forms of backing and support for the struggle of the Arab people in Egypt to overthrow As-Sadat's agent regime.

DAMASCUS PRAISES USSR STAND ON ARAB, OTHER ISSUES

JN251730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] On the occasion of the convening of the 26th CPSU Congress yesterday, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, addressed a message of greetings to President Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU general secretary, containing comradely and militant greetings to the congress and his thanks and appreciation for the principled andconsistent stand the CPSU has adopted in support of the Arab nation's struggle and its cause of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining the usurped Arab rights.

The convening of the 26th CPSU Congress constitutes a prominent landmark in the march of this party, which has guided the policy of the friendly Soviet Union for the past 64 years. This party has fo ulated the basis for constructive cooperation with all peoples aspiring to freedom and peace.

In the interest of the Arab nation's causes, the Soviet Union has defended the Arab nation's rights to political, social and economic independence; supplied it with all kinds of military, economic and technical assistance; effectively assisted it against all acts of imperialist and Zionist aggression; and supported it in all international forums based on the Soviet Union's firm belief in the unity of fate linking the world liberation movements.

The Soviet Union now reiterates its stand of support for Arab liberation causes. President Brezhnev yesterday stated that there are basic principles without which peace in the Arab region cannot be achieved. These principles are: requiring Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and securing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable legitimate rights, including their right to establish their own independent state.

Naturally, President Brezhnev's declaration of these principles, particularly from the rostrum of the 26th CPSU Congress, is of special significance, having been issued by the leader of a great power, a great power well known for its support of the peoples' just causes and for its capacity to steer events in a manner commensurate with the seriousness of these causes. This declaration also gives a new momentum to the Arab nation's struggle because it contains a reaffirmation of the Arab nation's rights to liberation, sovereignty and deliverance from imperialist control and Zionist occupation of parts of its territories.

President al-Asad appreciates the tasks and responsibilities shouldered by the friendly Soviet Union and the role it plays in the life of peoples and the status the Soviet Union enjoys on the international level as a vanguard country which supports world liberation movements and confronts imperialism and colonialism and all their allied forces, particularly Zionism, reaction and racism.

Proceeding from the vanguard position Syria occupies in connection with the pan-Arab struggle against the forces hostile to the Arab nation's objectives and aspirations, Syria is concerned with ensuring the requisites of this struggle, namely, increasing the effectiveness of our armed forces, improving their combat capability and bringing about social and economic changes that will enable Syria to continue its militant struggle against the Zionist enemy and against all the forces which support him militarily, and economically, above all the United States.

To achieve all this, Syria sincerely sought to strengthen relations of friendship and broaden the scope of its cooperation with the Soviet Union on all levels, government, party and people. These relations were crowned with the conclusion of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed early last October and by the exchange of the instruments of ratification of this treaty in early December.

This treaty was concluded in the wake of an experiment in special relations between our country and the friendly Soviet Union as it became necessary for relations to develop and to become firmly established in the interest of the two countries, whose stands have become identical on the issues of liberation, progress and peace.

President Brezhnev stressed the importance for Syria of the Syrian-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation when he stated in an explicit manner and in a spirit of genuine friendship that this treaty will contribute to consolidating Syria's economic and defensive capabilities.

Naturally, Arab Syria highly appreciates the Soviet Union's stand not only in terms of what is contained in the treaty, which serves the interest of Syria and the Arab nation's causes, but also in terms of other international issues, foremost of which are the causes of promoting peaceful coexistence, halting the arms race and establishing a new economic order based on equality.

The cohesion between the revolutionary leadership in Arab Syria and the friendly Soviet leadership has become a factor not only for guaranteeing the interests of the two friendly peoples but for achieving the interests of all peoples aspiring to liberation and peace.

Syria will continue as always to be a staunch friend of the Soviet Union, fully supporting all its stands on the various international issues.

The results of the 26th CPSU Congress will undoubtedly constitute a new step forward in the march of friendship and cooperation between Arab Syria and the Soviet Union, nay in the march of liberation and progress throughout the world.

EXPOSURE OF JORDANIAN 'CRIMINAL ROLE' THREATENED

JN251702 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus--Asked by SANA about Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran's role in operations which led to the murder of innocent people in Syria, a security source has stated the following:

Our people will not forget those who planned the assassination of hundreds of its sons, including workers, peasants, students, doctors, engineers, lawyers, university professors and men of religion. They must be held responsible for the crimes they have committed and receive the punishment they deserve.

Mudar Badran is one of the agent figureheads who planned such treacherous operations in our country. There are others in the Jordanian Government who have taken part in the assassination of our sons. We will expose them at the appropriate time. We have documents and recordings exposing the suspect criminal role played by a number of agent figureheads in the Jordanian Government. If necessary we will publish and broadcast all or part of these documents, including documents and recordings concerning Jordanian intelligence elements who have been sent to carry out assassinations in Syria.

It must be understood that we cannot compromise the right of our citizens to punish those who commit acts of treachery and assassinations against them, terrifying mothers and creating orphans and widows. These are most contemptible acts. Those who have committed them and the figureheads in the Jordanian Government behind them must receive their firm and fair punishment.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID VOICES QUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR LIBYAN MOVE

NC261146 Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 26 Feb (AFP)--President Chadli Bendjedid, in his country's first official comment on the presence of Libyan troops in Chad, has expressed qualified support for Tripoli's intervention in that former French colony.

Libya had intervened to help the Chadian people at the request of a legal government, which had the power to ask for help to end "the haemorrhage experienced by that country", he said.

"The Chadian people has suffered years of civil war and when Libya intervened to help that people at the request of its government, we saw colonialism protest," he added.

The Algerian president, speaking on a tour of the aures region of eastern Algeria, made no reference to an announcement in Tripoli in January that Libya and Chad planned to work towards merger.

But he said that Algeria was cautious about any plan for union that was not based on a popular conviction in the countries concerned and which was merely a result of an agreement between leaders.

"In reality, questions of this type are likely to trouble the climate in the region and open the way for provocations from certain colonialist countries," he added.

"This in turn would lead to tension which could lead to a cold war, which could degenerate into an armed conflict between neighbours," he warned.

Mr Chadli Bendjedid also said that Algeria was ready and willing to help reconcile the views of Morocco and Saharan nationalists, who are fighting each other for control of the Western Sahara.

We undertook the same initiative between Mauritania and the Saharn nationalists, he added. In 1978 Mauritania renounced all claim to part of the former Spanish territory which it and Morocco annexed.

But the Algerian leader said that his country, which backs the Polisario Front Saharan nationalists, would never bargain with the future of the Saharan people.

Mr Chadli Bendjedid, commenting on Algeria's role in the release of the U.S. Embassy hostages from Tehran, meanwhile refuted suggestions that it had wanted to use the negotiations to help it in a dispute with the United States over the price of natural gas exports.

Algeria agreed to act as intermediary at the request of Iran and the United States and had simply done its humanitarian duty, he said.

LIBYA

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ARRIVES 23 FEB

LD240940 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Brother Faruq al-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, last night arrived in Tripoli for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

24 Feb Departure

JN241853 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Feb (SANA)--Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received here today 'Abd al-Halim Khaddan, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salah at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs.

In a statement after the meeting Khaddam said that he delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, dealing with the current Arab situation, the means for strengthening the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and bilateral relations.

Khaddam and Ash-Shar' and the delegation accompanying them left Tripoli for Damascus this evening at the end of a 24-hour visit to Libya.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES PFLP'S GEORGE HABASH 25 FEB

LD252358 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] The brother leader tonight received Brother George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. Brother George Habash praised the relationship of struggle which links the Great 1 September Revolution and the Palestinian revolution. He also praised the effective role of the Jamahiriyah in the national Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and in confronting colonialist and reactionary intrigues. He greeted the attitudes of the Great 1 September to the causes of freedom in the world and its support for the cause of the Palestinian people. He expressed appreciation of the humanitarian attitude of the Great 1 September Revolution which had deeply touched him when he underwent treatment lately.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENCY APPOINTS NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY

LD220241 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] The presidency issued a decree this afternoon appointing Mr Mohamed [name indistinct] Ould Mokhtar Hassen as minister of economy and finance.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH USSR--Nouakchott, 12 Feb (AFP)--Mauritania and the USSR have founded a joint fishing company called Mossov, the Mauritanian daily CHAAB indicated on Wednesday. The agreement, signed by the Mauritanian minister of fisheries, Mr Oumar Soumare, and by the Soviet ambassador to Mauritania, Mr Vladimir Stratesev, falls within the framework of the new Mauritanian policy on fisheries. This new policy aims at setting up joint companies with the help of foreign shipping in order to benefit to the full from the important fish resources off the Mauritanian coasts. [Paris AFP in French 0722 GMT 12 Feb 81 AB]

EMERGENCY AID--The international community is to given an emergency aid to our country. The food aid commissioner yesterday held discussions with the American experts of the USAID and EEC and FAO representatives in Mauritania. The purpose of the talks was to encourage the international community and particularly the donor countries to give an emergency aid to our country in order to help it make up this year's food shortage which is estimated at 62,000 tons. [Text] [Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 12 Feb 81 AB]

SUDAN

MUBARAK SAYS NO COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH LIBYA

LD251555 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 81 p 1

[Bureau report: "Sudan Denies Concluding Military Agreement With Libya"]

[Text] Khartoum--Sudan has denied Libyan information media report about the existence of a new agreement for Sudanese-Libyan cooperation. Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that no agreement, military or otherwise, has been concluded between the two countries.

He described the report carried by the Libyan news agency as unfounded.

The Sudanese minister, who leads his country's delegation to the OAU ministerial council convening in the Ethiopian capital, said: "It is obvious that the Libyan report was meant to coincide with the convening of the conference in order to give the impression that Sudan had changed its stance on the Libyan intervention in Chad."

It is worth noting that the Libyan Government had stated that it had reached an agreement with Sudan to supply the Sudanese Army with arms and to open new fields for cooperation between the two countries.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES BULGARIAN ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS

JN211830 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri re-confirmed Sudan's foreign policies adherence to its principles, Arab and African principles, non-aligned group principles, respect to national sovereignty, non-interference in other countries interior affairs and armament limitation.

The president said when receiving credentials of Pantcho Demitrovas, ambassador extra-ordinary and plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to Khartoum, that Sudan will shoulder its responsibilities at national and regional levels respecting its concern over Arab solidarity and unity for reaching and equitable and just settlement to Arab cause and restoration of legitimate national rights of Palestinian people.

President Numayri also indicated the strive of Sudan to realize global development on its soil.

He also hailed developing co-operation between the two countries pointing to his previous visit to Bulgaria in 1970 and hailed fruitful outcome of Sudan-Bulgaria relations.

He asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to President Todor Zhivkov and the Bulgarian people.

TUNISIA

PARTY CONGRESS RESCHEDULED FOR 10-11 APRIL

LD171526 Tunis TAP in English 1350 GMT 17 Feb 81

[Text] Tunis, 17 Feb (TAP)--The special congress of the Destour Socialist Party (PSD) scheduled at first for May 12, 1981 will be held next April 10 and 11.

Taking place less than two years after the ordinary session of this country's supreme political authority, held in September 1979, and which is normally held every four years, this 11th congress of the PSD is meant to make a decision on the national political and especially economic options for the coming years notably as regards the orientations of the VI plan of social and economic development (1982-86) currently being prepared.

The next PSD congress has also been preceded by the establishment of a new social and political atmosphere through numerous measures recently taken to this end by Tunisia's head of state and chairman of the party notably since Mr Mohamed Mzali became prime minister in April 1980.

Characterized by a spirit of openness and tolerance with regard to the various national political trends and ideas, these measures aim to achieve consensus for the options to guide Tunisia's path in the coming stage and make all the nation's forces participate in the national development work.

The most important decisions include the liberation of all the political prisoners. On the social level the trade unionists condemned after the events of January 1978 have been granted presidential pardon an a national committee was formed to hold free and democratic elections (next March) within the leadership of the Tunisian Labour Union (UGTT).

The Tunisian Students' Union (UGET) is also to hold shortly elections to end the crisis it has been living through for several years. It should also be noted that several political figures who were expelled from the PSD have been allowed integration and new opposition papers have been allowed publishing.

These measures have made it possible to purify the country's social and political atmosphere and theredore all the conditions are joined to ensure success for the next congress of the PSD--founded by Bourguiba in 1934--and consequently for the next stage of development which the country is working for.

PRIME MINISTER MZALI MEETS WITH FRENCH PREMIER

For a Paris report on Prime Minister Mzali's 18 February official visit to Paris, see the France section of the 26 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

BEGIN, PERES DISCUSS JORDANIAN OPTION AT KNESSET

TA261119 Jerusalem POST In English 26 Feb 81 pp 1, 10

[By Knesset reporter Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said yesterday that all the difficulties holding up the talks on autonomy for the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, have been created by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

He told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that the obstacles included As-Sadat's demand that Jerusalem be considered an integral part of Judaea and Samaria, his demand to give the local Arabs control over their own security and his demand that they be allowed to elect a legislative council of their own.

Begin asked the Alignment members of the committee, rhetorically, if they would have accepted these demands had they conducted the autonomy negotiations with Egypt.

He noted that the United States has ruled out the idea of a legislative council for Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

The committee was discussing a motion by Asaf Yaguri (Likud-Ya'ad) entitled "The Alignment's Jordanian-Iraqi Option."

Taking up Alignment arguments that it was "immoral for Israel to establish permanent rule over one and a quarter million Arabs in the areas, Begin asked: "How come you don't think it is immoral to rule permanently over 600,000 Arabs in Israel?"

Begin said Labor's Jordanian option could be classed in one of two ways: Either it did not exist or it existed, and was very dangerous to Israel.

He said it could be considered as non-existent, in view of King Husayn's prior condition that Israel promise to hand back the whole of Judaea, Samaria and Jerusalem, before Jordan sit at the negotiating table.

But the option constituted a tremendous threat, if it indeed existed, Begin said, in view of the king's commitment to transfer to the PLO, any areas which Israel might return him.

Labor leader Shim'on Peres said there was a meaningful prospect of talks with Jordan despite all the king's disclaimers.

"The door is by no means closed on the Jordanian option," he said. The fact that Husayn is still giving money to officials and public institutions in Judaea and Samaria proves his own interest in the Jordanian option, Peres said.

Peres said that Israel's interests were not harmed by Husayn's rejection of the Jordanian option. "It's still good for our image. What's so bad about that?" Peres asked.

Peres said: "We must make use of the present political disunity in the Arab world to promote peace before the intensive arms race in the region makes the Arab states much stronger and hence a much greater threat to Israel's security."

TZIPORI SPEAKS ON LEBANON RAIDS, GAZA SITUATION

TA251205 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 81 p 2

[By Yehoshu'a Bitzor]

[Excerpts] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori yesterday told the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that the overall plan of attacks on terrorist concentrations in southern Lebanon, as well as every special operation, is carried out after approval has been received from the political level. [paragraph continues]

Every activation of the air force also is carried out only after updated approval has been received from the political echelon.

The committee yesterday heard a report on the most recent IDF operation across the Litani against a liberation front command post. A senior officer told the committee that the operation had gone perfectly smoothly, according to the plan, and without any IDF casualties. All the operation's objectives were attained. A three-man terrorist squad that rushed to the site as reinforcement was also wiped out. Not only was the command building destroyed, but also the adjacent building, from which shots were fired at the IDF troops. In fact, in this operation the terrorists were unable to engage in actual combat, because it was carried out with maximum exploitation of the element of surprise.

Several committee members asked whether every such operation is approved on the political level, and it was to this question that the deputy defense minister replied.

Mordekhay Tzipori, also replied to committee members' questions about the situation in the Gaza Strip, where murders were recently committed, and about the strike by teachers in the administered territories. In his reply, the deputy defense minister explained that the teachers strike in the territories is not economic but political. They want their salary made equal to that of teachers in Israel, but in the territories everything is cheaper because no taxes are paid and no VAT is collected.

Regarding events in the Gaza Strip, the deputy defense minister stated that a combination of terrorists and criminals was at work there, and they were collaborating with the Israeli underworld. This is political terrorism, in which criminal elements are involved, who engage in drug smuggling and other smuggling across the border in collusion with the criminal world in Israel. A plan is now being worked out for the imposition of order there. Among other ideas, the possibility of sending in the border police is being discussed, and the political level will discuss how to handle the Gaza Strip situation, where very sensitive issues are at stake.

MILITARY DECLINES COMMENT ON MIG-25 REPORT

TA261106 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Military sources yesterday would neither confirm nor deny a report in the latest edition of AVIATION WEEK that an Israeli F-15 last week downed a Syrian MiG-25 in a dogfight east of Beirut.

"The range, speed and altitude of the interception of the Syrian fighter make full verification impossible," was all the sources were willing to say.

The magazine's one-paragraph news item reported that the MiG-25--known by its NATO codename as Foxbat--was shot down by an F-15 interceptor escorting an Israeli Phantom engaged in a reconnaissance flight over southern Lebanon.

If the report is true, this is the first time anywhere that a MiG-25 has been shot down. The Foxbat has been in service with the Syrian Air Force since late 1979. The reconnaissance version of the aircraft is considered superior to the fighter-bomber version.

TERRORIST MILITARY FORCE IN LEBANON REINFORCED

TA251751 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Feb 81

[By military correspondent Sha'ul Stav--recorded]

[Excerpts] Military sources in Israel have noted the distinct process of reinforcement and renewal of the military force at the disposal of the terrorists in southern Lebanon. There are some 100 T-34 tanks and some 100 artillery pieces now stationed between the Litani and the As-Zaharani Rivers.

At present the terrorists' tank force is concentrated in the 'Ayn Jallud division of the Palestinian Liberation Army, stationed in the Sidon area. It is noteworthy that this division replaced a Syrian division that had been stationed there.

Besides the tanks, the terrorists have in their possession some 100 artillery pieces. They consist of many types of cannons and mortars as well as Katyusha missiles. The missiles are of Soviet, French and North Korean make and there are a few U.S.-made guns that were captured by the terrorists during the Lebanese civil war.

A large part of the terrorist military equipment actually belongs to the Arab Lebanese army, which split from the Lebanese Army during the civil war and joined the Fatah forces. The 1,000 soldiers of this force brought with them cannons, armored personnel carriers, armored cars, jeeps and other vehicles. At present they receive salaries and equipment from the terrorist organizations.

Other sources of arms for the terrorists are weapons purchased from Arab countries such as Libya, Syria and Iraq, for the PLO. But the bulk of the equipment was supplied to the terrorists directly by the Soviet bloc states through the Syrians and the Iraqis.

Recently, the PLO has also started training men for air and naval missions. There are also first indications of anti-aircraft deployment. The several dozen pilots and crewmen were first trained in the Soviet bloc, Libya and Uganda. Some of the pilots serve in the air forces of the Arab countries.

Military sources in Israel stress that the terrorists' attempts are merely the initial stages of military strengthening.

The Israeli sources also stress the almost complete dependence of the PLO military force on the Syrians.

T-34 Tanks

TA250712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Hungary has recently supplied more than 20 Soviet T-34 tanks and heavy vehicles to the terrorists in Lebanon. Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reports that these tanks have been unloaded in Beirut and transferred to southern Lebanon.

Although the tanks have been supplied to the terrorists by Hungary, there is no doubt that this is a direct dispatch from the Soviet Union. This is the third dispatch this year of T-34 tanks the terrorists are getting from East Europe and altogether more than 50 tanks and several trucks and other vehicles have reached Lebanon from that source.

Since the change in Syrian forces' deployment in Lebanon at the end of January 1980, a trend by the terrorists toward rapid reinforcement with modern weapons has been apparent. They are receiving mines, explosive materials, light arms and anti-tank guns. The greatest contribution to the terrorists was provided by the Syrians last year. When they evacuated their forces from the Ad-Damur region they left 60 T-34 tanks with the ('Ayn Jallud Division. This division is a part of the Palestinian Liberation Army and is under direct Fatah control. Several of the latest consignments of tanks from Hungary were sent to the Ad-Damur region, Az-Zahrani and Sidon. With this latest consignment from East Europe the terrorists now have nearly 100 Soviet tanks and this number is close to that of the tanks in the Lebanese Army. The T-34 tank is equipped with a 85-mm cannon. As I said, it is no longer in use in the Syrian Army and Egypt is also taking it out of use to be gradually replaced by a U.S. tank.

LAPOR LEADERS REJECT DAYAN'S RETURN TO PARTY

TA241014 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Feb 81 p 3

[By Leah Levani]

[Text] Tel Aviv--The Labour Party will present its leadership team and position papers on economic, foreign policy and defence issues in June, during the last month of the election campaign, party campaign, executives said yesterday. But the executives of the Labour alignment's election campaign, at a press conference, fielded mainly questions over reports that Moshe Dayan said on Sunday night that he would be willing to go back to Labour.

"Dayan said he would consider the Labour Party option, but the party's answer, or at least my personal answer, is that the Labour option isn't open to him," MK Avraham Katz'oz, deputy campaign chairman , said. "Dayan has made it clear three times that he's willing to provide services to any party, and he'll probably find, like all providers of services, that as he gets older he is less and less in demand."

On Sunday, Dayan himself had said he believed "there's no chance in the world" Labour would offer him a place on the party's list.

"I have not closed the options to return to the Labour Party, but I will not crawl to it," Dayan told the Tel Aviv Labour Council's Sunday lecture series.

Campaign Chairman Aharon Har'el said that everything must be done to prevent "a second democratic movement for change," whether Dayan, 'Ezer Weizman or someone else heads such a list.

"The public is tired of parties that have no ideological basis and that fall apart a week after they're formed" he said.

Asked if he thought the party should take Dayan back to neutralize a possible source of competition, he said that the party must be credible and that he is against Dayan's return to Labour. "The matter hasn't officially been discussed by any party institutions, so the opinions we're expressing are our personal views. Nevertheless, I don't think the official party view would be much different."

JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL SUMMARIZES WEST BANK PLANS

TA251659 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1530 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 25 Feb--By the summer of 1981 there will be 25,000 Jews in Judaea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley. This was noted by the Jewish Agency Settlement Department's head, Matityahu Drobles, in a news conference held in Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv today. In the news conference Mr Drobles summed up what he defined as "the largest settlement momentum ever experienced by the Zionist movement."

Mr Drobles and Dr Ra'anan Weitz are cochairmen of the settlement department active beyond the green line with a budget of 350 million shekels for fiscal year 1980-1981.

Following the decision made by the Knesset Finance Committee this week to add about 50 million shekels for the completion of the last six settlements in Judaea and Samaria, another 400 housing units will be set up in these settlements within 120 days. According to Drobles this will mean an addition of 3,000 people to the regional population.

Mr Drobles noted that compared to 72 new settlements set up in Judaea, Samaria and the Galilee between 1967 to 1977, 165 new settlements--58 of which were in the western Galilee--were set up between 1977 and 1981.

It is true, he said, that some of these [Galilee] settlements are observation posts having only 15 families or less each but their importance lies in preventing Galilee land seizure by the Arabs who constitute 68 percent of the entire population there today. These settlements will lead to balanced population in the Galilee within 3 years, Drobles said, adding that "we will be able to live with 50 percent."

Mr Drobles reported that the Jewish Agency's board of trustees has agreed, in principle, to grant the government a $30-million loan to enable the Housing Ministry to complete the building program in the new settlements, but the Finance Ministry has not yet replied to this proposal.

Under the existing budgetary limitations the settlement department has decided to dedicate its main efforts to strengthening the existing settlements, Mr Drobles said.

The Jewish Agency's Settlement Department asked for an addition of 250 million shekels this year in order to be able to implement the decision to set up six additional settlements: Mikhmash, Nili, Teqo'a B, Mizpe Guvrin, Shave Shomron B and Yaqir B near Elqana. Some 400 prefabricated housing units have been ordered for these settlements.

Drobles noted that 30 percent of the settlers already make their livings in the settlements. It is intended that in the future 60 percent of the settlers will be able to work locally while 40 percent, mostly academics, will work in the center of the country.

RAKAH, PLO DELEGATIONS BACK BREZHNEV INITIATIVE

TA252030 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Tel Aviv, 25 Feb--A meeting took place in Moscow between the PLO delegation to the 26th CPSU Congress, headed by Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO Political Department chief, and the RAKAH delegation headed by the RAKAH secretary general, Knesset member Me'ir Wilner, and with the participation of Emil Habibi, member of the RAKAH Political Bureau.

The two delegations expressed their full support for the new peace initiative of the Soviet Union for the establishment of just, stable and overall peace in the Middle East presented by CPSU Secretary General Brezhnev in his address at the opening session of the 26th Congress. The two delegations characterized the initative as an important step at the right time, since the Camp David deal had reached an impasse. The "Jordanian option" died at birth, and nothing emerged from the so-called European initiative. The importance of the new Soviet peace initiative for the Middle East is also stressed by the fact that it forms part of a series of new Soviet initiatives aimed at restraining the deterioration of international relations, preventing the return to the times of the cold war and promoting the freedom of nations. The RAKAH delegation also expressed its appreciation for the fact that the PLO has officially announced its full support for the new Soviet peace initiative in the Middle East. This official support was expressed in the statement made by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in which he emphasized that the "PLO sees Brezhnev's declarations as a constructive stance and an adequate and acceptable basis for the establishment of a stable and just peace in the Middle East."

The PLO delegation has expressed its high esteem for the resolutions of the 19th RAKAH conference, which contain the same elements that are included in the new Soviet initiative. The two delegations expressed their desire to continue their dialogue in order to advance the supreme cause of peace.

JANA REPORTS ON DELEGATES' REMARKS TO OAU COUNCIL

Libyan Secretary

LD251942 Tripoli JANA in English GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 Feb (JANA)--The secretary of the People's Committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau denied allegations about Chad made by Egyptian and Sudanese delegates to the O.A.U. ministerial council conference. He addressed the council saying that the Sudanese and Egyptian regimes were angered by the victory of the Chadian people over Habre's forces. Therefore they started fabricating lies and hostile rumours suggesting that the Libyan intervention represented what they called a "threat" to Africa.

In a speech he delivered at the evening session of the O.A.U. council conference in Addis Ababa, he added that the Jamahiriyah intervened in Chad at the request of the legitimate national government of Chad. It will withdraw her forces from Chad's territories if the Government of Chad asked it to do so.

He continued that the joint communique issued at the end of President Goukouni Queddei's visit to Libya confirmed the historic, social and spiritual ties between the Libyan Arab and the Chadian peoples and that the unity is a mass unity between two brotherly peoples.

The secretary expressed his surprise at the presence of a delegation representing the Egyptian regime at the meetings pointing out that this regime has defied African unanimity by normalizing relations with the (Israeli) enemy. He added "the Egyptian regime is the last to speak of freedom. This is the regime which linked Egypt with imperialism, made it a U.S. military base, surrendered to the Zionists and conspired against the African peoples." He went on to say that the transformation of Egypt into a U.S. military base constitutes a direct threat to African security and defies the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The secretary of the Foreign Liaison Bureau also critisized the reports of the O.A.U. secretary-general as inaccurate and not objective as regards the Libyan-Chadian people's unity. He said that the reports are based on very limited sources of the parties concerned.

Acyl Ahmat

LD252120 Tripoli JANA in English 1903 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 Feb (Jamahiriyah News Agency)--Acyl Ahmat, the Chadian foreign minister has strongly attacked the Egyptian regime and said that it was behind the dissension the murderer Hissein Habre created in Chad. Addressing the Organization of African Unity's committee, he added that the Egyptian regime gave arms and support to the murderer Habre and was responsible for rekindling the civil war which tore the Chadian people and killed innocents. This support, he said, given by Egypt's ruler to the murderer Habre was against the interests of the Chadian people and their freedom, and an interference in Chad's internal affairs.

Acyl Ahmat indicated that the Libyan and Chadian peoples were linked by ancient historical bonds and blood ties. He added that the intervention of Libyan troops in Chad was at the request of the legitimate government in Chad, and in accordance with a previous agreement. He went on to say that security and peace were restored in Chad after the victory of the Chadian people, and the situation in the country also went back to normal.

Acyl Ahmat condemned the present hostile imperialist actions carried out by some countries against Chad. He said "As Chad is a member of the Organization of African Unity, it affirms that Africa is for the Africans, and rejects any foreign interference in Africa's internal affairs."

ETHIOPIA

DEVELOPMENT OFFICIAL MEETS WITH UNDP ADMINISTRATOR

LD251932 Addis Ababa Domestic Service Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Hadis Tedla, Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee member, deputy chairman of the National Revolutionary Economic Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee member, this afternoon received in his office and held talks with His Excellency Bradford Morse, administrator of the UN Development Program [UNDP].

Comrade Hadis noted that great importance is attached to Mr Morse's visit to socialist Ehtiopia and thanked the UNDP for the assistance it has given, and would give, for socialist Ethiopia's development. He also briefed Mr Morse on the struggle socialist Ethiopia waged during the last 6 years in defense of its integrity, the well-being of its people and the revolution and the victories won.

Comrade Hadis added that the objective of the Ethiopian revolution was to liberate the country from backwardness and to improve the people's living standards by making effective use of the country's natural resources. He also noted that apart from the political and military victories won, promising results were realized in the past two economic development campaigns, launched to develop the country's economy.

In conclusion, Comrade Hadis noted the importance of skilled labor for the realization of Ethiopia's long and short term economic development plans and expressed the hope that the UNDP's assistance and cooperation would continue in the future.

For his part, His Excellency Mr Morse said that his organization will not hesitate to encourage and assist development work and added that the UNDP would assist Ethiopia in its tasks of development as much as it can.

Earlier, His Excellency Bradford Morse and Comrade Hailu Yimenu, senior minister, secretary general of the National Revolutionary Economic Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and COPWE Central Committee member, discussed at length the achievements and progress of the UNDP-financed development works. Present at the talks was Comrade Mersie Ijigu, head of the Planning and Coordinating Department of the National Revolutionary Economic Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and alternate member of COPWE Central Committee.

MENGISTU ADDRESSES 26TH CPSU CONGRESS IN MOSCOW

For a Moscow TASS report on the speech by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia, at the 25 February session of the 26th CPSU Congress in Moscow, see the supplement to the 26 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT entitled "Proceedings of the 26th CPSU Congress."

SOMALIA

RADIO KULMIS WARNS DRIVERS: SSF CLAIMS SUCCESSES

LD252236 [Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 25 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Good evening listeners. Before I read you the various reports from the war front, here is an announcement:

1. All civilian vehicles carrying either goods or passengers are called upon to stop at any stop sign, whether manned or unmanned, while traveling on the main tarmac roads. Any driver who disobeys this order will be held responsible for the consequences.

2. Civilian vehicles are ordered not to deviate onto side roads off the main tarmac road between the towns of (Bulla Burde), Hargeisa and Abdelcader. Any vehicle which deviates from the main tarmac road and follows any of the side roads will be held responsible for the consequences to its goods and passengers.

Our reports accompanying the 9th Company of the General Aynanshe Battalion of the Somali Salvation Front [SSF] forces reports that the terror gang lost two armored personnel carriers belonging to the 58th Company of the 5th Battalion of the forces loyal to the terror gang, which were burned out. The same reporter also says two vehicles belonging to the Ghelinsor police were burned out. Other losses suffered by the terror gang: the 28th Company of the 5th Battallion lost 2 vehicles burned out in which 20 soldiers died and 80 were wounded.

Our reporter accompanying the 15th Company of the Gorod Battalion of the SSF forces says it has received 12 soldiers who were formerly members of the Somali forces loyal to the terror gang ruling our country. These 12 men, complete with their arms, were led by (Usman Umar Samatar), known as (Ghod Ghal), a member of the 26th Company stationed at Hargeisa, and (Diriye Umar Yusuf) known as (Haadle), and (Shaykh Usman Muhammad).

CAMEROON

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON GUINEAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD232326 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Maroua (Cameroon), 23 Feb (MPA)--Cameroon and Guinea condemn the Libyan intervention in Chad and ask for the immediate implementation of the Lome resolutions which exact the withdrawal of Libyan troops, indicated the joint communique published here Saturday at the end of a five-day official visit of the Guinean president, Mr Ahmed Sekou Toure, to Cameroon.

According to well-informed milieux, the two presidents examined a strategy to set up and raise an inter-African force.

Attempts are being made before the Security Council to obtain from the United Nations financial and material means to raise and send the African contingents to Chad, recalled the same milieux. According to observers, the presidents of Guinea and Cameroon believe that Chadian reconciliation will facilitate the departure of Libyan troops and accelerate the return to a normal political and economic life in the country.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

SIX CANDIDATES CLEARED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

AB251055 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Bangui, Feb. 25 (AFP)--Six people including President David Dacko have registered with the Supreme Court here as candidates in next month's presidential election in the Central African Republic, Supreme Court sources said here today. The court would officially announce the names of candidates cleared to stand in the March 15 elections by tomorrow at the latest, the sources added.

Mr. Dacko, who came to power in September 1979 in a French-backed coup which ousted self-styled Emperior Bokassa, will stand on the Central African Democratic Union Party ticket.

Other candidates include Francois Pehoua (independent), Henri Maidou (Republican Progress Party), Abel Goumba (Oubanguien Patriotic Front-Labour Party) and Ange Patasee (Central African People's Liberation Movement).

But the sixth candidate, Tandalet Hozi Okita. leader of the Central African Socialist Party and first to announce his candidacy publicly, on Monday said that he would be withdrawing from the presidential race. Mr Tandalet, who expressed fears that the campaign could turn into a bitter contest between former associates of ousted Emperior Bokassa, told AFP that March 15 was too early to hold elections.

Campaigning for the poll is scheduled to begin next Sunday with a rally for Mr. Pehoua, a former central services director of the Cameroon-based Bank of Central African States.

The Central African constitution, approved in a referendum on February 1, states that the president will be elected for a six-year term of office. Candidates must be Central Africans and at least 35, and pay a deposit of five million cfa francs (25,000 dollars). After this poll, no president will be allowed to stand for re-election.

STATE RADIO, TELEVISION EMPLOYEES STRIKE

AB251850 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Bangui, 25 Feb (AFP)--The staff of the state radio and television went on strike in the Central African Republic today, claiming they were being threatened and pressured and the government was doing nothing about it. The staff members, employees of the Information Ministry, said they would remain out until a dialogue had begun between their department and the government. The broadcast services were carrying classical music and occasional short newscasts.

Information Ministry personnel sent a petition to President David Dacko on Sunday, detailing their complaints. It was not clear who they had accused of putting pressure on them.

The staff said today that their initiative had brought no response. The same fate had befallen three earlier petitions, they said.

CHAD

FRENCH SOURCES CITED ON SOVIET, GDR TECHNICIANS

AB260707 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] People have been talking more and more about the presence of Soviet and East German military technicians in Ndjamena. French sources in Paris have added that these technicians, whose number has not been specified, often fuss around Libyan aircraft at Ndjamena airport. According to the same sources, there are now between 7,000 and 10,000 Libyan soldiers in Chad. The Chadian authorities have not said anything concerning these reports.

GHANA

MILITARY AGAIN WARNED AGAINST COUP ATTEMPTS

AB260745 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] The chief of defense staff [CDS], Air Vice Marshall Odartey Banor, has again issued a strong warning to any individual or group of persons who may attempt to stage a military coup in the country. He was addressing officers and men of the 2d battalion of infantry at (Maiyong) Barracks near Takoradi yesterday. The CDS said Ghanaians have decided to go by a constitution drawn up by established legal processes. If, therefore, the people do not like any part of the constitution, it is for them and not a battalion of military men or a group of people to decide to effect the necessary changes. Similarly, if Ghanaians do not like any particular government, it is for them to say so when it comes to elections.

Air Marshal Odartey Banor stressed that while a constitutional government is in power, it must be given peace all the time so that, finally, it can be judged by the people through the ballot box. He said the role of the armed forces is to sustain whichever government is in power by maintaining the peace and stability needed for development, and that is why the government is spending heavily on the salaries of the forces alone. The CDS therefore called on all soldiers to report immediatley any self-seeker who will attempt to lure them into subverting the constitution on the pretext of fighting for the rights of the common man.

The CDS is on a 4-day familiarization tour of military units in the western region. He is accompanied by some service commanders and staff officers from the Ministry of Defense

LIBERIA

DOE URGES SPEEDY TRIALS TO CURB RISING MURDER RATE

AB260850 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] The head of state of Liberia, Master Sergeant Doe, has instructed Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo to furnish his office with the names of all persons being detained for premeditated killings so as to ensure their fair and speedy trial. He said it is disgusting that the rate of killing has increased in the country, and he declared that the government would bring those involved to justice in order to bring relief to the Liberian people.

The Liberian leader gave the instructions yesterday at the Justice Ministry, where he had gone to discuss with Minister Cheapoo the recent increase in the rate of murders in the country. He said anyone found guilty of killing would face the full weight of the law. Head of state Doe also instructed the justice minister to submit to him by Friday the names of killers detained in the counties and territories to afford the government enough time to look into their cases.

MALI

TRAORE SENDS GOOD-WILL MESSAGE TO USSR'S BREZHNEV

AB251458 Paris AFP in French 1424 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Bamako, 25 Feb (AFP)--Gen Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali and secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union, on Tuesday sent Mr Leonid Brezhnev, USSR head of state and chairman of the CPSU, a message of goodwill on the occasion of the deliberations of the 26th Congress of the CPSU.

In the message, he commends the Soviet people for the successes they have achieved and the considerable impact of the world policy advocated and followed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Mr Moussa Traore writes in substance: We are convinced that this congress will be a success with regard to world peace and that it will grant meaningful support to the people fighting against colonialism, racism, threats of war and the intervention of monopolist powers in the affairs of free countries. Malians highly appreciate the bonds of friendship and the relations of cooperation which the USSR has established with our country.

NIGERIA

TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT ON KANO RIOTS

AB261036 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] The task force committee appointed by the Kano State government to assess the damage to public and private property during the Maitatsine disturbances in Kano has submitted its report to the governor, Alhaji Muhammed Abubakar Rimi.

The chairman, Alhaji Aminu Yusuf, said various methods were used to identify the actual victims and the extent of damage to their property. These include visits to the scene of the disturbances and hospitals to interview the victims. Alhaji Aminu said 140 houses were completely destroyed while 22 others were partially damaged. At the tribunal investigating the disturbances itself, a list of highly placed government functionaries who sought mystical powers from the religious fanatic was yesterday tendered as an exhibit. It was submitted by an official of the National Security Organization [NSO], and was immediately put away by the tribunal's chairman, Mr Justice A.N. Aniagolu, who described it as highly classified. Two days ago, the NSO official requested that that portion of the exhibit be excised and classified to avoid endangering those whose names appeared on it.

MINISTER OF STATE RESIGNS FROM NPP, JOINS NPN

AB251622 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] The minister of state in the Ministry of Communication, Chief (Etan Okoe Ogboni), a member of the Nigerian People's Party, NPP, from Cross River State today formally renounced his membership of the party and declared for the National Party of Nigeria, NPN.

His action, he said, was in keeping with his conviction that the NPP, as presently constituted, did not cater for the interests of his people in the Cross River State. The minister said that since he could not sacrifice the interest of his people for personal political expediency, he had to realize [words indistinct]. Chief (Okoe Ogboni) said that he was joining the NPN because he [words indistinct] of the efforts to bring about peace, unity and stability to Nigeria.

On his position as an NPP nominated minister, Chief (Okoe Ogboni) said that, since he was not an elected public officials, it is not (?just) to resign his ministerial appointment. He claimed that he was the president's appointee and only he could remove him.